

INVITATION FOR NOMINATIONS
The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA)
Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety
TO BE PRESENTED AT
NORA SYMPOSIUM 2008: PUBLIC MARKET FOR IDEAS AND PARTNERSHIPS
JULY 29, 2008

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORATM) Liaison Committee in cooperation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH/CDC) invites nominations for ***The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety*** to be presented at the sixth biannual NORA Symposium to be held in Denver, CO, on July 29, 2008. This award honors innovative and creative occupational health and safety research in a NORA priority area. The purposes of the award are to recognize the development of or encourage continued work with a new approach to prevent and/or reduce occupational illness and injuries. Candidates may be affiliated with a university, industry, government agency, labor union, or a private organization.

Background

In April 1996, NIOSH and its partners unveiled NORA, a framework to guide occupational safety and health research – not only for NIOSH, but for the entire occupational safety and health community. Approximately 500 organizations and individuals outside NIOSH provided input into the development of NORA. The NORA process, which captured broad input and consensus, produced the following 21 priority areas of research.

NORA Priority Research Areas

Disease and Injury	Allergic and Irritant Dermatitis Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Fertility and Pregnancy Abnormalities Hearing Loss Infectious Diseases Low Back Disorders Musculoskeletal Disorders of the Upper Extremities Traumatic Injuries
Work Environment and Workforce	Emerging Technologies Indoor Environment Mixed Exposures Organization of Work Special Populations at Risk
Research Tools and Approaches	Cancer Research Methods Control Technology and Personal Protective Equipment Exposure Assessment Methods Health Services Research Intervention Effectiveness Research Risk Assessment Methods Social and Economic Consequences of Workplace Illness and Injury Surveillance Research Methods

Following discussions in 2005 between NIOSH and its partners, NORA entered its second decade

with a new sector-based structure to better move research to practice within workplaces. Stakeholder comments were solicited in Town Hall meetings and through the internet. The national agenda will be developed and implemented through NORA Sector Councils. Each Council is in the process of drafting a strategic plan and implementation plan that will define high priority needs within the sector and the types of research and translation activities needed to meet those needs. The draft strategic plans will be available for public comment early in 2008. Visit the [NORA website \(www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora\)](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora) for more information, including a searchable database of [NORA stakeholder comments](#) and descriptions of the priorities being considered by each [NORA Sector Council](#).

Nomination Guidelines

Nominations are invited for innovative research in one of the 21 NORA priority areas from the first decade or in another area that the nominator justifies is a high priority for worker health, including problems that address ways to move research to practice in a specific sector. Nominations can be submitted by anyone including self-nominations by the candidate. NORA team leaders, NIOSH study section members, and others may nominate a Principal Investigator or the research team for the award. Individuals with knowledge of innovative research that should be considered for this award are invited to send contact information to the Chair, Innovative Research Award Subcommittee (Jacqueline Agnew, <jagnew@jhsphe.edu>), so the nomination can be solicited. NIOSH participation in or NIOSH funding of the research is not a requirement for eligibility.

Nominations are to be submitted via a nomination letter, of no more than two pages, that addresses the following elements:

1. The name of the project
2. The name of the NORA priority area
3. A description of the research project, including the nature and significance of the problem being addressed, research procedures, and findings
4. A detailed description of the study design
5. A description of how the research was conducted (methods)
6. A description of the results and impact of the research on worker health and safety
7. A description of how the research findings were (will be) translated into new approaches to prevent and/or reduce occupational illnesses and injuries
8. An explanation of why the research is considered innovative or creative as compared to what currently exists

Documentation of the innovative research project other than the nomination letter **will not** be considered and should not be included with the nomination letter. The nomination letter **must** include email and other contact information for the nominator and all the nominees. In addition to the nomination letter, the following items must be included: 1) two supporting letters from individuals not involved in the research who can attest to the value of the research (If the nomination is not a self-nomination, the nomination letter can serve as one of the supporting letters); and 2) current curriculum vitae(s) of the nominee(s) with a relevant list(s) of publications/documents.

The Award

The NORA Liaison Committee will select the award recipient(s). This committee, chaired by Dr. Bonnie Rogers, represents industry, labor, academia, professional organizations, and government. The Liaison Committee's role is to provide outreach and commentary on the development, progress, and direction of NORA implementation.

Each nominee winning the award will receive an engraved plaque honoring their selection for ***The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Innovative Research Award for Worker Health and Safety***. This award presentation will be one of the highlights of the sixth biannual NORA Symposium to be held in Denver, CO, on July 29, 2008. Additionally, a letter will be mailed to nominee/s receiving the award notifying them of the award and the location of the presentation. NIOSH will attempt to have notification of the award provided to the appropriate local and professional news media.

Previous Winner

This award was first given in 2006. The winning project was titled "[Reducing the Impact of Green Tobacco Sickness among Latino Farmworkers](#)." Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS) often affects farm workers who handle wet tobacco leaves and may lead to symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, and vomiting that can lead to life-threatening dehydration. Latino tobacco workers are especially at risk since they supply the majority of the tobacco labor in the US. The partners conducted an epidemiological study to document the prevalence of symptoms in a cohort of farm workers, examined cases in depth to determine risk factors for illness, and used this information as a basis for recommended interventions. The result was an extensive body of scholarly work on GTS epidemiology and the production of culturally appropriate education materials for both farm workers and medical personnel who treat GTS. The materials include a video/DVD on agricultural chemical safety; a fotonovela on GTS and its prevention, of which 10,000 copies have been distributed to workers in the US and another 2,000 to workers in Canada; a safety comic on GTS; and papers and conference presentations to education medical professionals.

Submission Instructions

The nomination letter, supporting letters, curriculum vitae(s), and publication list(s) must be submitted electronically to the NORA Coordinator <noracoordinator@cdc.gov>.

Criteria and Scoring

Criteria and scoring of the submitted proposals will be based on the following:

1. Extent of the innovative or creative nature of the research as compared to what currently exists (50%)
2. Nature and importance of the outcome, significance of the problem addressed (30%)
3. Quality of the research performed (20%)

Deadline

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Wednesday, April 30, 2008. Submissions received after the close of business on April 30 will not be considered.

Additional Information

For additional information, please:

- Contact Jacqueline Agnew, Chair, Innovative Research Award Subcommittee at <jagnew@jhsph.edu> or 410-955-4037
- Contact Sid Soderholm, Executive Secretary, NORA Liaison Committee at <SSoderholm@cdc.gov> or 202-245-0665
- Or, visit the NIOSH Website at <<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>>